

The Henry S. Linn Residence
Bellefonte Pa.

HABS No. 8-5

HABS
PA
14-BELF
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No.8

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
Charles M. Stotz, District Officer
815 Bessemer Bldg., Pittsburgh Pa.

THE LINN HOUSE
North Allegheny Street
Bellefonte, Center County
Pennsylvania

Owner: Henry S. Linn and Mary H. Linn.

Date of Erection: 1810.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Stone.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

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THE LINN HOUSE

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The main portion of the house was built in 1810, under the direction of Judge Jonathan Hoge Walker, President Judge of the Fourth District, for the original owner, General Philip Benner, who in turn rented the house to Judge Walker.

Robert Walker, the son of Judge Walker, became Secretary of the Treasury under President Polk.

Partial list of occupants:

Judge Jonathan Hoge Walker - to 1814
Judge Charles Huston - 1819. In 1826 was appointed Justice of the Supreme Court in Pennsylvania.
Congressman William W. Potter.
John Fox - a Philadelphia lawyer who practiced in Bellefonte.
Jacob Valentine Thomas - an old Iron Master.
William Potter Wilson - 1857 to 1865, a lawyer
General Beaver - 1869
Colonel Patton - who in 1792 owned an iron furnace at Centre Furnace, Centre County.
General Benner - in 1793 owned the first forge in Centre County.
Major Philip Benner Wilson - Officer in the Second Pennsylvania Cavalry.
John B. Linn - 1871 to 1899, was Secretary of Commonwealth under Governor Hartrant.

General Benner, who died in 1832 willed the house to his daughter, Mary Wilson Benner, who later married John B. Linn.

Henry S. Linn and his sister Mary H. Linn, the present owners, are children of John B. Linn.

It is thought that the original house was copied somewhat after a house in Carlisle, Pa., possibly the Ephriam Elaine House. In 1841 the second floor shutters and a front porch were added, but around 1924 the porch was removed, and the pediment and pilasters of the entrance doorway were replaced exactly to the original profile still showing on the stonework.

The original library mantel was destroyed when marble mantels became the vogue but the present one is a reproduction of a mantel built in 1812 and here again the exact profile was followed. The cupboards on either side of the fireplace are original and many of their details have been incorporated into the details of the mantel.

In 1870 the dining room and kitchen wing was added, the brick lean-to at the rear of the kitchen being added in 1907.

Very little is known of the earlier construction, John McDermott, a carpenter, being the builder of the 1870 addition, and Gehret and Lambert, a contracting firm, doing the later work.

Dean E. Kennedy, author.

Approved, Charles M. Stotz,
District Officer.

Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.